

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Electrotechnical Plant in Riga	DATE DISTR.	17 June 1958
		NO. PAGES	6
		REFERENCES	RD
DATE OF INFO.			50X1-HUM
PLACE & DATE ACQ.			

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

50X1-HUM

1. The Valsts Electrotechnical Factory (Valsts Elektrotehniskaya Fabrika -- VEF) was located on ulitsa Lenina, Riga, beyond the bridge (Vosdushnyy Most) over the railroad line coming from the center of town. The plant, which once belonged to the German firm AEG and was taken over by the Latvians before World War II, was subordinate to the Ministry of Communications Equipment Industry until 1955, when it was transferred to the Ministry of Electric Power Stations. Local Latvian authorities were gradually assuming responsibility for the plant, which had been subordinate to the Ministry of Radio Technical Industry since late 1956.

50X1-HUM

2. The plant employed 5,000 to 7,000 workers, most of whom worked in two shifts. The VEF was considered a model enterprise, and missions from [redacted] the Soviet bloc countries, had inspected the plant.

50X1-HUM

3. Following were the principal divisions of the VEF:

- a. Telephone exchange division, which consisted of mechanical processing, assembly of telephone exchanges, assembly of sets, and automatic relay production shops.
- b. Radio-technical division, which produced radio receivers, was comprised of the following departments: mechanical processing, assemblies (probably chassis), and two assembly shops.
- c. A press shop for the plastic processing of metals and sheet metal.
- d. A press shop for bakelite products.
- e. A telephone production shop.
- f. Foundry.
- g. Toolmaking shop.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		ORR	Ev	X		
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")																

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 2 -

- h. Carpentry shop.
- i. Hardening shop.
- j. Plating shop.
- k. Paint shop.
- l. Chief electrician's division.
- m. Maintenance division.

The VEF also had the standard administrative and technical sections found in most Soviet plants.

4. The VEF had been building up its complement of machinery since 1944/1945 because the Germans had removed most of its mechanical equipment. Most of the equipment was old; the presses for plastic processing, for example, were prewar German models. Machines, mainly metalworking tools, had been imported from the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland. The plant apparently had only one Western machine, which was an unidentified Swedish installation.
5. The principal products of the VEF were radio receivers, automatic telephone exchanges, and telephones. Production of military communications equipment had been discontinued. However, it could have been resumed on short notice. The following radio sets were produced:
  - a. The Lyuks model, which had 11 tubes and four loudspeakers. Three thousand units were produced a month.
  - b. The Akkord, which was an improved version of the Baltika model manufactured by the plant until 1956. Three thousand sets were produced monthly.
  - c. The Turist, a portable, was produced at the rate of ten thousand sets each month.
6. Thirty thousand telephones, in addition to spare parts, were produced each month. No figures on telephone exchanges were available, but it was believed that the entire production was for the domestic market.
7. The VEF had exported 5,000 standard Lyuks radios, as well as 500 luxury Lyuks built into cabinets (the ensemble was called Russia). Although no confirmation was available, it was believed the plant might also export radios to East Germany.
8. The production process was hindered by the irregular and delayed supply of all raw materials, which was ascribed to poor organization and bureaucratic methods rather than to real shortages. Consequently, the plant was forced to work at a slow tempo at the beginning of each month, whereas three shifts were required after the material had been received to achieve production quotas. On several occasions a special plane was sent to Moscow to obtain five kilograms of a certain type of wire, without which an entire division would have remained idle.
9. In accordance with the current tendency toward exclusive production of one item, a vote was held among the workers to determine whether they preferred to concentrate upon the production of radios or telephones. Although radios were favored, no measures connected with the discontinuation of telephone manufacture had been taken by late 1957.

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

- 3 -

50X1-HUM

10. Attached is a sketch, with legend, of the layout of the VEF.

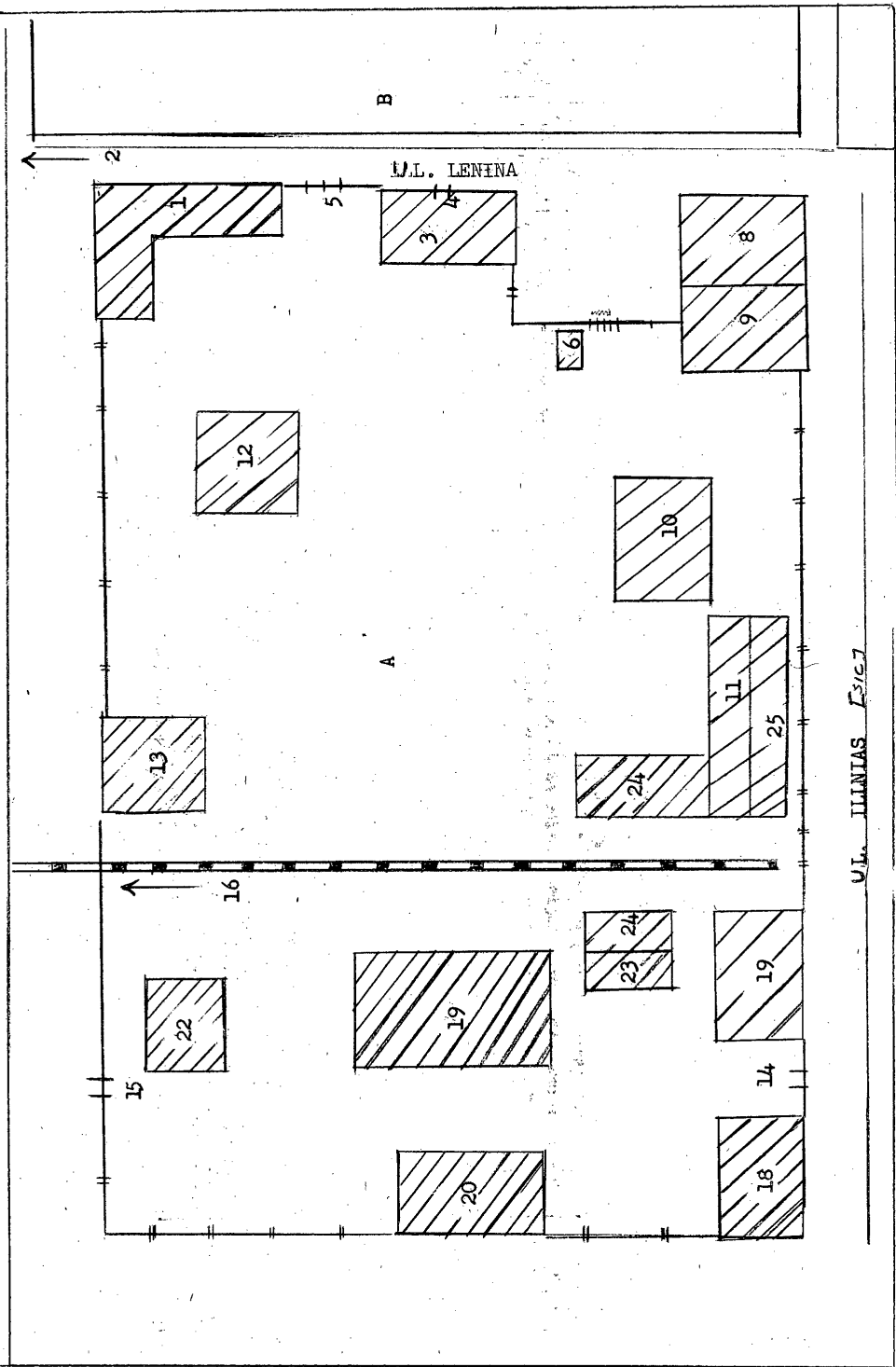
Comments:

50X1-HUM

1. The "Turist" model is not listed in available information.
2. The "Russia" model is not listed in available information.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM



S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 5 -

Legend

A. Plant area, measuring 1,000 x 500 meters.

B. Area of the Railroad Construction Plant (Vaggonostroitelnyy Zavod)

C. Plant Layout

1. Shops for the production of telephone exchanges, a four-story building with a 150-meter front on ulitsa Lenina and a width of about 100 meters.  
First floor - mechanical processing.  
Second floor - assembly of telephone exchanges.  
Third floor - assembly of sets.  
Fourth floor - automatic relay production.
2. Ulitsa Lenina in the direction of the center of Riga. The nearest objective is a viaduct over the railroad line.
3. Management offices, a three-story building.
4. Entry to management building from the street (plant executives only).
5. Vehicle gate, normally closed.
6. Permit office and guard room.
7. Five gates for pedestrians.
8. Secondary trade school of the plant, a two-story building to which there is free access.
9. Offices of supply department and personnel bureau, a two-story building.
10. Shops for the production of radio sets, a six-story building with a tower.  
First and second floors - mechanical processing.  
Third floor - assembly of lyuks sets.  
Fourth floor - assembly of Baltika and Akkord sets.  
Fifth and sixth floors - shops for the production and assembly of radios.
11. Press division (metals and sheet metal), a large shop 200 meters long with a glass roof.
12. Offices of the finance and accounts departments, a two-story building.
13. Chief electrician's division and boiler plant.
- 14 and 15. Vehicle gate.
16. Railroad siding in direction of exit gate and junction with main line.  
(Although the track has been drawn as a straight line, it actually branches out within the plant area.)
17. Toolmaking shop, a three-story building.
18. Hardening shop.
19. A five-story building, measuring 150 x 100 meters, which houses the following:  
First and second floors - hydraulic presses for bakelite processing.  
Third floor - experimental division.  
Fourth floor - telephone division.  
Fifth floor - unknown.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 6 -

20. Carpentry shop for production of cabinets for radios and telephone exchanges, a three-story building.
21. Stores.
22. Foundry.
23. Plating shop.
24. Paint shop.
25. Maintenance division.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM